

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 3, 14 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 9-13 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Frucco (EP 0 464 776) (hereinafter "Frucco").

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Frucco in view of Uhlin (US 5,987,935) (hereinafter "Uhlin").

Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Frucco.

Claims 1-8

Amended claim 1 recites: "...a control unit to control the pumping unit and the motor; wherein the control unit controls the pumping unit to pump the water contained in the lower portion of the water tub into the rotary tub while determining an amount of a laundry load and controls the motor to rotate the rotary tub in opposite directions while controlling an operation of the pumping unit." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 3. As noted in the Office Action, Frucco does not discuss a motor for rotating the drum, although this feature is inherent in virtually all drum type washing machines. What is not inherent, however, is the feature of claim 1 where the control unit controls the motor to rotate the rotary tub in opposite directions while controlling an operation of the pumping unit. This technical feature of claim 1, and an overall aspect of the present invention, provides a drum type washing machine where even when laundry contained in the rotary tub are overlapped or massed, the overlapped or massed state of the laundry is removed by the opposite directional rotation of the rotary tub and the water circulation and spray operation which are controlled by the control unit. With a washing machine as recited in claim 1, laundry is sufficiently and uniformly soaked with water within a short time. By contrast, it appears that Frucco only discusses charging the washing machine with an adequate amount of water and then relies on the recirculation conduit 9 to spray water on the laundry to soak it. The technical feature of claim 1 of rotating the rotary tub in

opposite directions while operating of the pumping unit provides a faster, more effective means to soak laundry. Further, as this feature is not discussed in Frucco, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon prior art.

Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 2 and 4-8 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 14 and 15

Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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